

WICHITA AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

March 16, 2006 Meeting

Attendance

Members Present:

Ronald Marnell, Chairperson
Clark Nelson, Vice-Chairperson
Bob Aldrich
Don Anderson
Darrell Downing
Morris Dunlap
Bud Hentzen
Thomas Dow, *Ex Officio Member*
Hoyt Hillman
Bill Johnson
Thomas Jones
John W. McKay Jr.
M.S. Mitchell
Denise Sherman
James (Jim) A. Singletary
Harold Warner Jr.

Members Absent:

Jay Banasiak
Elizabeth Bishop
James P. Ford
Michael Gisick

Others Attending:

John Schlegel, MAPD/WAMPO
Nancy Harvieux, WAMPO
Bhupendra Patel, WAMPO
Purab Adabala, WAMPO
Daniel Nguyen, WAMPO
Aprajit Desai, WAMPO

1. Call meeting to order – Chairperson, WAMPO.

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Marnell, Chairperson of the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization, held in the Planning Department Conference Room, 10th floor, City Hall, 455 N. Main, Wichita KS.

2. Approval of the Minutes of the February 16, 2006 meeting.

Mr. Marnell asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes, having none, the minutes were approved as presented.

ACTION: Mr. Warner moved to approve the February 16, 2006 Minutes. Mr. Downing seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously (10-0).

3. Public Hearing to amend the 2006 Transportation Improvement Program.

Presentation by Nancy Harvieux, Transportation Planning Manager.

Ms. Harvieux presented an overview of the proposed amended 2006 Transportation Improvement Program. She stated that the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) requested an amendment to the TIP to include new State projects and to revise existing ones. The WAMPO Staff also coordinated with metro communities and individual project sponsors to identify projects that needed to be revised in the TIP. The amendment also included revisions to the text and additional program information within the TIP document.

Ms. Harvieux told the Policy Body that the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) met and reviewed all requests from the various metro communities at its February 27, 2006 meeting. The TAC recommended that the Policy Body approve the proposed amendments. The Public Comment and Review Period began on March 1, 2006 thru March 14, 2006 for the recommended 2006 TIP amendment. The proposed 2006 TIP amendments will allow:

- 1) the KDOT to include new projects in the TIP document;
- 2) the KDOT to revise existing projects to reflect new changes; and
- 3) the Cities of Wichita and Derby to include new intersection projects.

Ms Harvieux asked the Policy Body to review the document, hold a Public Hearing, and vote on the amendment.

Public Hearing

Mr. Marnell opened the Public Hearing; having no comments from the public, he closed the Public Hearing.

ACTION: Mr. Mitchell moved to approve the proposed amendment to the 2006 TIP. Mr. Warner seconded the motion. Motion carried (10-0).

4. Approve revision to the South Area Transportation Study (SATS) Advisory Committee and Nominate a Policy Body representative for the Advisory Committee.
Presentation by Nancy Harvieux, Transportation Planning Manager.

Ms. Harvieux reminded the Policy Body that the Wichita Area Metropolitan Planning Organization was awarded federal funds to study transportation issues in the WAMPO planning area. The WAMPO Policy Body approved the South Area Transportation Study (SATS) Advisory Committee membership on September 22, 2005. Since then, the City of Andover has requested to be included on the Committee. The WAMPO Staff is requesting the Policy Body approve the revision of the SATS Advisory Committee membership to include Andover. In addition, the WAMPO Staff is also requesting the Policy Body nominate a representative to the Advisory Committee.

ACTION: Mr. Dunlap moved to approve the revision to the SATS Advisory Committee membership to include a representative from the City of Andover. Mr. Jones seconded the motion. Motion carried (10-0).

ACTION: Mr. Downing moved to nominate Mr. Hoyt Hillman as the Policy Body representative for the SATS Advisory Committee. Mr. Hentzen seconded the motion. Motion carried (10-0).

5. Status of the WAMPO Regional Pathway System Plan (RPSP).
Presentation by Nancy Harvieux, Transportation Planning Manager.

Ms. Harvieux said that the WAMPO is in the process of hiring a consultant for the WAMPO Regional Pathway System Plan (RPSP) and the purpose of the Plan is to assess the existing bicycle/pedestrian facilities and identify, prioritize, and recommend future connecting links for bicycle/pedestrian use. A Request For Qualifications (RFQ) was sent out and the Staff Screening and Selection Committee met on March 1, 2006 and narrowed down to three out of the six proposals that were submitted. The next step will be to send out a Request For Proposals (RFP) to the three firms selected in the RFQ and ask them to respond. A consultant will be selected from those three proposals. The estimated cost of the Plan is \$150,000.00, and they are being paid for by federal earmarked dollars.

ACTION: None

6. Status of the WAMPO Railroad Crossing Study (RCS).
Presentation by Nancy Harvieux, Transportation Planning Manager.

Ms. Harvieux advised the Policy Body that this would be another study where the WAMPO will look at all railroad crossing at intersections throughout the WAMPO Planning region, which included all of Sedgwick County and the Cities of Andover and Mulvane. The Consultant will be assessing safety, congestion, traffic flows, and noise issues. The estimated cost is \$220,000 and it will benefit all communities.

ACTION: None

7. Update from Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT).

Ms. Harvieux invited the Policy Body to attend the next TAC meeting Monday, April 3, 2006 at 10:30 am. She told the Policy Body that Ms. Rosie Ingram from the Kansas Department of Transportation (KDOT) would be at the meeting to answer questions and provide much needed information about future funding, legislation, and other issues that will affect the WAMPO and KDOT.

Mr. Dunlap asked about the status of the K-96 and K-254 corridors and the Northwest Bypass. He wanted to know where KDOT stood on those issues.

Mr. Dow informed the Policy Body that dialog has taken place. At this time, KDOT does not have a position on K-96 and 254 and that KDOT has not committed any funds to those projects to make further improvements. It would be after 2012 before KDOT would have any funds. With the Northwest Bypass, KDOT does have money in that project along with the City of Wichita and Sedgwick County. He stated that there is \$14 million to purchase right-of-way but the current cost projection increased and could cost as much as \$50 million. There is no funding currently set aside for construction and it could cost approximately \$500 million. He told the Policy Body that there was a Public Meeting today with KDOT Officials to discuss the NW Bypass project at the Sedgwick County Extension Education Center. A presentation is scheduled from 2:00 to 2:30

p.m. and the Open House from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. The meeting is for those interested in reviewing the preferred alignment and the Environmental Document for the Northwest Wichita Corridor.

8. Other items.

Mr. Marnell suggested having a workshop in the near future to discuss specifically “Over Programming” of the TIP document and what the Policy Body will need to do to ensure that the MPO spends the funds that come into the area wisely.

Ms. Harvieux stated that the WAMPO Staff will present an informational brief/presentation to them as soon as possible to keep the Policy Body better informed so that they could make sound decisions.

9. Adjournment.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:36 p.m.